

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 10699 140037Z
ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1980
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 10699

FROM AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, WMO
SUBJECT: SELECTION OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF WMO

REF: STATE 175364

1. IN A MEETING WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR ON MONDAY I ASKED HIM WHAT THE STATUS OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION WAS REGARDING DR. DAVIES. HE SAID THAT DAVIES AND DR. MASON HAD MET WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD "PASSIVELY SUPPORT" DAVIES' ATTEMPT TO SEEK ANOTHER TERM. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO OPPOSE THE REDESIGNATION OF ONE OF ITS CITIZENS BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE CLEARLY INDICATED THAT ANY STEPS THAT WE MIGHT TAKE OPPOSING DAVIES WOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS HOSTILE TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

2. I BOW TO THE WISDOM OF YOUR DECISION BUT I BELIEVE WE COULD HAVE JARRED DAVIES IN A MOST APPROPRIATE WAY BY WORKING WITH COLLEAGUES HERE SO THAT HE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT HIS RE-ELECTION IS NOT A PRE-ORDAINED EVENT AND THAT THOSE WHO HAVE PUT HIM IN OFFICE DO NOT ADMIRE THE WAY HE IS CLINGING TO IT. WITHOUT A LETTER SUCH AS MY SUGGESTED

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ONE TO AMBASSADOR HESSEL OF FRANCE, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE WITH NO CANDIDATE TO PUT FORWARD, THERE IS NO WAY FOR MEMBER STATES TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN ABOUT DAVIES' ADMINISTRATION AND THE FUTURE OF WMO. INFORMALLY WE HAVE HEARD THAT NORWAY AND SWEDEN ARE SEEKING A CANDIDATE IF ONLY TO EXPRESS THEIR DISSATISFACTION. VANDEN HEUVEL

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